

FBIS

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Latin America

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FURTHER ON POSTPONEMENT OF CONTADORA MEETING

Panamanian Ministry Bulletin

PA141530 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Feb 85 pp A 1, A 14

[Bulletin issued by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry on 13 February in Panama City]

[Text] On 9 January 1985 in Panama City, the foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, members of the Contadora Group, issued a declaration stressing the major achievements of the process of dialogue and negotiation sponsored by the group, as well as the various obstacles that have precluded the achievement of the final goals of peace and regional cooperation.

On that occasion, the Contadora Group summoned the governments of the Central American countries to a meeting of plenipotentiary officials on 14 and 15 February in Panama City "for the purpose of reaching accords on the mechanisms for verification and control and other pending issues, prior to signing the Contadora Document."

The purpose of holding a meeting of plenipotentiary officials, a formula used for the first time within the framework of Contadora, was to bring together several representatives with full powers to negotiate and assume commitments on behalf of their governments. In this manner, substantial advances could be made by the representatives in the process of adopting the document for peace and cooperation as the decisions of the plenipotentiary officials would correspond to those of each government. However, it was assumed that the meeting would be at the deputy minister level. In order to work on the preparations for this meeting, the deputy ministers of the four Contadora countries decided to meet in Panama City on 12 and 13 February to thoroughly prepare for the meeting with the Central American plenipotentiary officials.

In recent weeks, a conflict has emerged between the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in connection with the right of asylum, a right both countries stress must be strictly observed. The Contadora Group has been making diplomatic efforts to find a solution satisfactory to both parties. On 18 January 1985, the OAS Permanent Council urged both Costa Rica and Nicaragua to resolve the problem in accordance with the Contadora Group's good offices. Within this context and under the sponsorship of the group itself, representatives of Nicaragua and Costa Rica met in Panama in early February and expressed their willingness to resolve the conflict. Despite the fact that since that time contacts at the various levels have been held among officials of those governments and of the Contadora Group, it has, unfortunately, been impossible to find a formula for an arrangement.

The Contadora Group reiterates its willingness to lend its good offices as well as its firm willingness to mediate so that this bilateral issue or any other regional incident can be suitably resolved. To this end, it is important to keep the process of negotiation and pacification -- which the group itself has been sponsoring for 2 years with the express support of the international community -- from being hindered by incidents like this one. The delicate Central American crisis merits a renewed political effort to concentrate all attention on the solution of problems whose magnitude and gravity cannot be disregarded.

Within this context, and in order for the mediation to culminate in an agreement on the issue at hand, the Contadora Group deems it necessary to postpone the meeting of plenipotentiary officials and to strive to achieve more favorable conditions that will make it possible to reach substantial political understandings on peace and cooperation in Central America.

The Contadora Group exhorts the governments involved in the Central American conflict to continue negotiating with flexibility and in good faith, convinced that regional peace will ultimately depend on the effort made and the responsibility assumed by those same governments.

Panama, 13 February 1985

Contadora Representatives Meet

FL142144 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2050 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Panama City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Despite the postponement of the plenipotentiaries meeting, deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group continue to meet here. The representatives from Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Colombia continue their talks on the diplomatic steps which the peace-seeking group must follow to bring the Central American nations back to the negotiating table and sign a general peace agreement. Although the talks are being held behind closed doors at a downtown Panama City hotel, the deputy foreign ministers have categorically denied that the peace negotiating process has been paralyzed.

For Nicaragua's Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, who arrived yesterday in Panama City, Costa Rica's stand is in complete opposition to the Contadora principles because of conditioning its participation on the solution of a problem that is bilateral, personal, and secondary. Meanwhile, today they are waiting for the three foreign ministers meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, to issue a communique on their official position on future negotiations the Contadora process will hold.

ECLA ISSUES REPORT ON LATIN AMERICAN INFLATION

FL142250 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1935 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- ECLA has reported that despite the decreasing trend of Mexico's inflation in 1984, there was almost a 60-percent increase in prices to the consumer at the start of the year.

A document issued by ECLA says the weak recovery in most of the Latin American countries, added to unemployment, made prices rise and reach a combined simple average rate of 145 percent in 1984.

ECLA indicated that notwithstanding the Mexican Government's planned goals, the import volume increased considerably to 26 percent. [sentence as received] It said the increase in Mexico and Haiti's total exports was not able to compensate for the fall in the 2 years before 1984.

According to ECLA, inflation reached unprecedented levels in Latin America's economic history and it is probable that it will continue its upward course.

Near the end of 1984, the exchange system was unified through [word indistinct] devaluations which represented increases of nearly 330 percent. For example, in Bolivia, the government increased basic goods prices in amounts fluctuating between 40 and 200 percent. In its report, ECLA added that inflation was enormous in Argentina, continued high in Brazil and Peru, and that the rhythm of price increases accelerated in Uruguay, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic. The report said that inflation had declined in Mexico, but still continued high, both historically and internationally.

PRESIDENT WARNS ABOUT THREAT OF CIVIL WAR

PY151310 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Last night President Hernan Siles warned about the danger of a civil war lingering over Bolivia as a consequence of the attempt to establish a parallel power in the country. The president said that the Bolivian Labor Federation is aiming at a civil war. Otherwise, why establish a rival power? Why intervene in the Bolivian Mining Corporation? Why intervene in the Foreign Exchange Commission? Why is there talk about intervening in state institutions? Why is there interest in a confrontation among the Bolivian people? The president wondered whether we are at the brink of a civil war.

In addition to confirming his decision to hold presidential elections at an earlier date, in June 1985, despite criticism from leftist parties, the president confirmed his call for these elections. The president said that we are not attached to power for the sake of power, we are attached to the people, so I can tell you that there will be elections and everyone should prepare for them.

The president also referred to the recent economic measures issued by the government, stating that they were necessary since there was no other alternative. To postpone their implementation [words indistinct] would have meant making a difficult situation even worst.

The head of state said that he personally understood the people's reactions and the recent economic distortions, but that despite the circumstances it is necessary to accept the suggestions and alternatives that may improve the Bolivian situation. He added that if an alternative better than these implemented appears, it will be considered by the government and possibly implemented.

Siles added that as president he receives criticism from the left, right, and center. He stated that the government is not dependent on alien powers.

In addition to reviewing appeals made to the [word indistinct] that he has visited throughout his administration, President Siles promised that no police intervention will take place at the universities. He added that his government wants prestigious universities where the students are in the best atmosphere to gain knowledge so that later they can contribute to enhancing the country. President Siles added that under the current conditions he is willing to (?expedite) the allocation of funds to the Bolivian universities for that purpose.

INTERIOR MINISTER THREATENS 'STATE OF SIEGE'

PY141738 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Bolivian Interior, Migration and Justice minister Alvarez Plata warned, as he was leaving Government House today, that if extremist groups continue their provocations the government will be forced to impose a state of siege throughout the country. The interior minister accused certain political groups of seeking to bring chaos and disorder to the country.

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] violent attitude. I have been surprised by the statements of Delgadillo [Bolivian Labor Federation leader] and [name indistinct] and the [words indistinct] of Senator Zamora rejecting the constitutional government. Thus, I hardly think that any more evidence is necessary for the openly conspiratorial attitude of [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata said this at the end of today's noon time meeting held at Government House. This meeting was also attended by representative of the Defense and Information Ministries.

REYES ELECTED SECRETARY AT FIFTH PCB CONGRESS

PY142013 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party [PCB] yesterday ended its fifth national congress. Simon Reyes Rivera, well-known mineworkers union leader, was elected first secretary of the party. At the congress the PCB delegates decided to call on all leftist forces to unite to confront the present economic situation.

POLICE TASK FORCE TAKES OVER LA PAZ UNIVERSITY

PY141645 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] At approximately 1900 last night in a massive operation, the La Paz Police took over the main building of San Andres University in order to rescue two policemen. According to police sources, the pair had been taken hostage by university students in reprisal for the arrest of six students.

A police security task force armed with electric rods, tear gas canisters, and guns violently interrupted academic activities by firing shots and conducting searches for guns which were allegedly in the hands of the local university federation members.

All university students who were in the building were locked in and subjected to abuse. At approximately 2045 the police released the female students who were beaten, and subjected to electric shocks and tear gas. Not even the press was spared: A photographer from a La Paz daily, despite being identified as such, was beaten twice by a police officer dressed in civilian clothes who took and destroyed two unused rolls of film.

The San Andres University rector issued a statement in which he repudiated the police repression, while the Interior Ministry under secretary said that, although he does not defend police repression, the police had no alternative in view of the university students starting to beat and injure the two policemen. He added that some university students, members of violent subversive cells, unleashed their resentment upon those humble public servants.

The situation at San Andres University remained unchanged as of 2130 last night, and police forces continued to control the main university building and adjacent streets and to block access to the press.

LAST DAYS OF REGIME MARRED BY CHARGES, BANKRUPTCY

PY141735 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0025 GMT 14 Feb 85

[By Francisco Roque Bacarreza]

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 13 Feb (EFE) -- A chain of bankruptcies and fraud against state corporations, resulting from lack of control and management of public funds, is besmirching the final days of the military regime.

With only a month to go before a civilian becomes president of the country, after two decades of authoritarianism and technocracy, two banks and their financial subsidiaries, the giant social security conglomerate, and the shipyards are currently involved in scandals.

Olavo Setubal, the virtual foreign minister of the incoming administration, has indicated that to issue more money to plug the holes made by fraud and mismanagement will only push the inflation rate higher.

Within less than a week the Central Bank declared bankrupt and intervened in the affairs of the Sulbrasileiro and Habitasul banks, both in Rio Grande do Sul State, thus affecting some 2 million clients.

A loose policy of encouraging ship building has led to an economic crisis of the main private shipyards which had received, thanks to government backing, loans from foreign and national banks totaling some \$600 million which they cannot pay back.

The Finance Ministry has conducted an investigation whose results were released today showing that the office of the national superintendent of the merchant marine had granted state backing without prior authorization.

The failure of this policy and the bankruptcy of one of the Rio de Janeiro shipyards last week led to the suicide of its owner Paulo Ferraz, whose debt totaled \$300 million.

Yet another scandal involves the huge social security conglomerate where, according to official Health Ministry reports, the theft of public funds has become an institution. Over 100 private clinics may be involved in fraud committed through forged authorizations to render medical services or purchase materials.

BRIEFS

POLICE PROTECTION FOR SMUGGLERS -- A Sao Paulo policeman has been accused of protecting a group of international smugglers. Civilian police investigator (Adelmo Valdezerra Jr), alias Cadeirinha, stationed at Congonhas Airport, reportedly escorted a truck carrying smuggled electronics equipment coming from Paraguay. According to unidentified sources, the smugglers have an almost perfect arrangement, including the protection of plainclothesmen. The smuggled equipment is reportedly sold in Sao Paulo to a computer-producing company. [Summary] [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Feb 85 PY]

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH IN 1984 -- The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics today reported in Rio de Janeiro that in 1984 the overall growth of the Brazilian industry was 6.77 percent above the 1983 figure. Mineral extraction played an outstanding role with 27.27 percent. The 1984 growth of oil and natural gas extraction was 34.98 percent. [Excerpt] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Feb 85 PY]

DISORDERS BLAMED ON TRAVEL BAN TO M-19 CONGRESS

PA141709 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Cali -- The government order preventing civilians from reaching the 19 April Movement [M-19] camp at Los Robles, near Miranda municipality in northern Cauca Department, has truly resulted in a public order problem.

The national congress "For Peace and Democracy" called by the rebel group has opened, although with very few civilian delegates, at Las Dantas ridge. Meanwhile, negotiations continue between a national commission sent by the government and the guerrilla movement to move the congress to another area such as Florida or even Cali, as has been suggested. However, we repeat that the congress has opened although very few civilian delegates are attending because access has been totally barred to hundreds of delegates, who are now in the municipality of Florida, a few kilometers from Miranda, awaiting a settlement to the stalemate.

Approximately 550 people are scattered throughout Florida but most of them are concentrated in the main square. Many of them have had no food and are facing other hardships because of the travel ban to Los Robles, which is being fully enforced.

Moreover, an M-19 group has just occupied the Red Cross offices in Candelaria and other strategic areas in that municipality. Candelaria is very close to Cali and Florida and is part of the trouble area as a result of the ban on the M-19 congress.

The guerrillas are still posted at the main square. Residents from this municipality, which is very close to Cali, have reported that some of them are armed. The guerrillas at the Red Cross office are insisting that the government allow them to travel to Los Robles, where the M-19 congress is taking place. [as heard]

We have said that this has become a public order problem in the region because the church of San Fernando Rey, located in Cali's southern district, was occupied this morning by a large number of M-19 sympathizers who were on their way to Los Robles. They have asked (Jose Everardo Garcia), the parish priest, to intercede with the government to allow them to go to Los Robles. In addition, stoning has been reported at Santa Librada College, whose rector, Mr (Paz Maldonado), had to dismiss the students who are also demanding that a commission be allowed to travel to that area.

In the meantime, 30 M-19 sympathizers who were detained while traveling on a bus taking them to Florida from Medellin have been released since they were found not to be carrying any weapons. Some of them were detained, however, because it was proved that they were carrying two grenades and other items exclusively reserved for the Army.

FARC, ELN CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMB ATTACKS

PA141301 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Feb 85 pp 1 A, 2 A

[Excerpts] Medellin, 7 Feb (Editing Office) -- The police have reported that two revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] and Army of National Liberation [ELN] dissident groups have claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks occurred last night in seven establishments, most of which were U.S. firms, and which resulted in the death of one policeman and the wounding of another. Property damage was estimated at 5 million pesos.

The bomb attacks took place between 2200 and 2320 in midtown areas of this capital. These terrorist actions occurred a few hours after Government Minister Jaime Castro warned that the government was determined to use weapons if the guerrilla groups reject the olive branch offered to them.

Metropolitan Police Commander Colonel Miguel Carrillo Garcia reported that the terrorist attacks affected the transnationals IBM, General Telephone and Electronics (GTE), Union Carbide, Xerox, a refrigerator distributor, the offices of the Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) group, and the headquarters of the Hare Krishna group, a youth religious association.

Col Carrillo Garcia said that Ramiro Moreno David, 32, a watchman who worked for Sinsercol [expansion unknown] was killed during the attack on the IBM facilities, located at 46th Street, Urubamba Building. In addition, Mario Acevedo Maya, 45, was wounded during the attack on the Xerox offices.

The FARC and the Ernesto Che Guevara and Ricardo Franco commando units of the ELN have claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks in phone calls received this morning at police headquarters.

The first of the seven bombs exploded at 2200 at the Hare Krishna cultural center, located half a block from Medellin's metropolitan cathedral. No casualties were reported, but the blast destroyed windows, screen doors, and office equipment and damaged the center.

Half an hour later, the terrorists simultaneously detonated bombs at the "GTE Consortium," located at 80th Street, Union Carbide, and a firm that sells refrigeration equipment located at 50th Street. The police reported that "the terrorists used very powerful dynamite bombs." The blast at the GTE establishment destroyed doors, windows, and safety glass valued at 1 million pesos.

Municipal government secretary Humberto Moncada Morales condemned the terrorist acts that have again placed the city in a state of anguish.

Moncada Morales told EL TIEMPO that the attacks were not exclusively against U.S. firms. "Those are unofficial rumors."

Moncada Morales finally said that authorities prevented an greater tragedy by arriving promptly at the site of the incidents.

ECOPETROL REFINERY REPORTS LOSSES FROM SABOTAGE

PA142159 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol] has suffered over 8 million pesos in losses because of acts of sabotage during the past few days at the Central Refinery facing Barrancabermeja, where several wells have been paralyzed, many barrels of crude oil have been spilled, and the tires of many vehicles have been punctured.

(Francisco Chona), manager of the refinery, charged that equipment has been seriously damaged by loosened nuts and screws. The motor graders and vehicles have also been affected by sabotage said the official, who appealed to the workers not to participate in and to prevent these acts, which are affecting crude production in the area.

As these events were being reported, workers met in Barrancabermeja and appointed Jorge Guijano as their negotiator to discuss their demands in the second round of talks, which is scheduled to begin in Bogota tomorrow.

ELN AMBUSH OF CONVOY WITH 12 MILLION PESOS THWARTED

PA130344 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Feb 85 p 2 A

[Text] Medellin, 7 Feb -- One policeman was killed and four policemen and two civilians were wounded when a commando unit of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] tried to hold up two jeeps carrying 12 million pesos of the Agrarian Fund. The ambush took place on the highway that connects the towns of Segovia and Remedios, in the south-eastern part of Antioquia Department.

The vehicles were ambushed at 1100 this morning by some 30 men, in the place called Curva del Silencio, located somewhere between Segovia and Remedios.

The guerrillas opened fire on the men in the convoy from a bush and left after an intense 30-minute shootout.

The departmental police command said that the guerrillas, some of whom were women, killed policeman Francisco Javier Pacheco Mendivel and wounded policemen Conrado Gomez Martinez and Sneider Fonnegra Tolosa and the driver of one of the vehicles.

The Agrarian Fund money was being transported from Remedios municipality to Otu Airport, to be flown to this capital.

Police said that the ambush was planned by the Jose Antonio Galan Front which operates in the northeastern region of Antioquia Department.

Francisco Javier Pacheco Mendivel, 24, from Cordova, had joined the police force 2 years ago.

The mayor of Remedios, Hector Villanueva, reported that policemen Alonso Gomez de los Rios and Hair Diaz Marin and drivers Guillermo Pisco and Antonio Galvis were wounded during the shoot out.

The 12 million pesos were being transported in bags, which were snatched away from the guerrillas by Antonio Galvis who, despite being wounded, eluded the guerrillas.

Mayor Villanueva said that the rebels took three carbines that belonged to the wounded policemen.

ARMY COMMANDER CLARIFIES STATEMENT ON COUP

PY150221 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] In a communique delivered to the press, the commander in chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, has confirmed that the Armed Forces will strictly respect the people's decision by supporting the actions of the future government and its democratic institutions. Gen Medina also refers to the press reports about the statements made on 12 February. Gen Medina's communique says:

In order to clarify the meaning of a statement I made recently and to prevent it from being misinterpreted in any way to make me look as though I am reneging on my commitment to serve the country's best interests, I hereby make the following clarifications:

1. I defended, I could not have done otherwise, the causes that originated the civic-military process with which I was, and currently am, completely identified.

2. The remarks I made about the 1973 coup were made within the historical framework of circumstances of that time, and which were sustained by the Armed Forces.

The communique also says that today we are living through a different phase of the evolution of events, and we are looking to the future with the hope of definitely establishing democracy.

3. The Armed Forces, which summoned and presided over the national elections granting all the guarantees as part of a plan of political freedom, strictly respect the people's decision by supporting the actions of the future government and its democratic institutions as established by the Constitution and the law.

The document is signed by the commander in chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Hugo Medina.

BRIEFS

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE -- The names of some of President Sanguinetti's future economic team have been announced. Accountant Ricardo Pascale will be the president of the Central Bank in Uruguay. [Excerpt] [Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 85 PY]

LUSINCHI BACKS URUGUAY'S RETURN TO DEMOCRACY

PA131350 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 6 Feb 85 p D 14

[Interview with President Jaime Lusinchi by visiting Uruguayan journalists; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] Are you going to attend the installation of President Sanguinetti?

[Lusinchi] I am trying to solve the protocol obstacle which unfortunately is a problem of sovereignty. But you can bet on it that I will do my best to be there. If I cannot go, a very qualified delegation will be appointed to go in my place. Of course, I should pay President Sanguinetti a visit, but this will take place after he is firmly installed in the Government Palace in Montevideo, I would really like to return to Montevideo, where I stayed when I was a very young in exile to protest the dictatorship in my country. This time I would go to Montevideo to praise a democracy that has been reborn.

[Reporter] Does Venezuela plan to reach a decision on the economy for improving trade with Uruguay by March?

[Lusinchi] Yes, we talked about this very matter this morning with President Sanguinetti, his entourage, and Venezuelan Government officials, all of whom have shown great interest. We have a very great interest in starting commercial exchanges with Uruguay that are favorable to both countries. We are sincere in offering to help Uruguay's democracy in whatever way we can.

[Reporter] According to what you have said, will Venezuela support Uruguay's return to democratic institutionalization?

[Lusinchi] Yes. As you can see we have with us both political and social representatives of the Venezuelan nation so that we can show President Sanguinetti that we fully support the Uruguayan situation. There are no differences among us regarding the Uruguayan process and any decision the government makes to help Uruguay will have, as you have probably realized at this meeting, our people's support. I am pleased to let you know that President Sanguinetti and I have arranged important meetings with the president of Venezuelan Petroleum and also with the Venezuelan finance minister. They are going to talk to him about our experiences in refinancing, and there will be a very important visit by the military high command paid to President Sanguinetti in order to express the respect and solidarity of the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

[Reporter] Mr President, do you think that this meeting represents a real integration of Latin American democratic countries?

[Lusinchi] Yes, obviously. This is a special reaffirmation of a long-standing search, of a long-standing ambition of Latin America to integrate. I really feel that Uruguay's return to the democratic system, and the Brazilian election of a civilian president are events of historic significance. We are riding an ascending democratic wave. I hope that the remaining dictatorships in the north and south will disappear. I think we are on the winning side, and if we do not make mistakes everything will be consolidated forever.

My message to Uruguay is a message of hope. I would say it is a message in which we can reaffirm that Uruguay's democratic future is clear. But Uruguay and Venezuela cannot make mistakes; they cannot place themselves in the same situation that once led to dictatorships. This is important; it is an appeal that I make to Uruguay with all due respect and sincerity. That is why I wanted to have all the political groups of Venezuela present so that it would be a message from all Venezuelans and not just from me. Since I am president of the Republic, and a member of the Democratic Action party, it could be interpreted as a partisan message. But it is a national message. The history of Venezuela has much to teach Uruguay because many things have happened here due to our mistakes. We have tried to live in utopia, to gather clouds, and to conduct pseudo-revolutionary exercises, without having the true objective positions, that is if what we were trying to do was imitate Marx.

SECRETARIAT DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF URBINA RELEASE

PA150231 Paris AFP in Spanish 0147 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Feb (AFP) -- The Mexican Foreign Secretariat today informed that "at the moment it has no information whatsoever" on the Nicaraguan Government's release to Mexico of Manuel Urbina Lara, whose request for asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua created the diplomatic incident between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Information published by the press in Prague stated that during a press conference Aquiles Centeno, Nicaraguan ambassador to Czechoslovakia, had announced that Urbina would be released "to the brother country of Mexico so that the excuses being used by Costa Rica would no longer be valid." According to Costa Rica, Urbina was forcibly taken from the embassy, whereas Managua states that Urbina left the embassy voluntarily after renouncing his right to asylum. Following this incident, and with Honduras and El Salvador supporting the Costa Rican stance, the meeting of the Contadora Group, scheduled for 14 and 15 February in Panama City, was suspended. The spokesman for the Mexican Foreign Secretariat told AFP that "the Mexican Government is willing to mediate in any differences arising among Central American countries."

GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR ON REFUGEES, RELATIONS

FL051836 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0245 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 4 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Ambassador to Guatemala Abraham Talavera said here today that the number of refugees immigrating to Mexico had decreased considerably and had stabilized for many months at 46,000 illegal aliens. Interviewed at Mexico City's airport after returning from Guatemala, the ambassador said that over the past few months some 700 Guatemalans had returned to their country and were living in various development centers which the government of Humberto Mejia Victores had established for them, centers for persons displaced by the war. Talavera said the problem of the Guatemalan migrant workers should not be analyzed the same way as the problem of undocumented Mexicans in the United States because each problem has its own characteristics. On present relations between Mexico and Guatemala, the ambassador said that they were excellent and very cordial which allows for greater cooperation in a large number of areas. Talavera said trade, which was almost negligible except in petroleum, had started to be revitalized and that after the purchase of 1,037 head of cattle it seems convenient and necessary to continue increasing trade relations.

He concluded by noting that trade cooperation programs which Mexico and Guatemala will soon begin will be directed at medium- and long-term goals.

2,500 PSUM MEMBERS RESIGN FROM PARTY IN SONORA

FL150210 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2345 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Hermosillo, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- The opposition United Socialist Party of Mexico [PSUM] in the State of Sonora has virtually disintegrated with the resignation of 2,500 of its 2,800 members. The mass resignations by members of Sonora's PSUM were the result of their dissatisfaction with the central committee's policies, which were considered undemocratic and opportunistic, federal Deputy Manuel Bernal Galvez said today.

According to Bernal Galvez, who also resigned from the party, among those leaving the PSUM in Sonora were the leaders of the state committees and most of the municipalities. He said the PSUM dissidents will not take part for now in elections and in the city of Guadalajara, some 700 km west of Mexico City, will decide between 13 and 24 February what the work guidelines will be for the 25,000 militants who resigned from the PSUM in 18 of Mexico's 31 states.

CARDOZE SENDS MESSAGE TO U.S. ON DIPLOMATIC POUCH

PA142245 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Feb 85 pp A 1, A 14

[Message from Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega to the U.S. Government through Ambassador Everett Ellis Briggs, issued in Panama City, dated 12 February]

[Excerpts] Mr Ambassador:

I am honored to address Your Excellency to reiterate to the U.S. Government the Panamanian Government's position regarding the application of diplomatic pouch privileges for U.S. Panama Canal Commission employees. This application was approved through a resolution made by the five U.S. members of the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors during meetings on 11 and 12 July 1984.

Diplomatic pouch privileges were broadly analyzed by the UN International Law Commission in 1957, which stated that the diplomatic pouch should be used only to transport diplomatic correspondence between governments and their missions abroad and that it should certainly be inviolable. The concept and content of this conclusion were presented in Article 27 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961. Therefore, this is a privilege that states grant each other as a working instrument within the sphere of communications that should exist between the accredited state and its mission in the state that grants accreditation. Panama Canal Commission employees are not U.S. diplomatic representatives or members of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Panama.

U.S. canal employees' right to use the diplomatic pouch is not addressed in the Panama Canal treaties. On the contrary, approval of that privilege by the U.S. members of the Canal Commission Board of Directors violates Paragraph 6 of Article 10 because of its discriminatory nature. This paragraph expressly prohibits discrimination in matters pertaining to salaries, services, or benefits for reasons of nationality.

Article 8, Paragraph 3 of the 1977 Panama Canal treaties clearly states that only 20 Panama Canal Commission employees and their dependents will enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities.

The intention of extending application of this privilege to most of the U.S. commission employees, therefore, has no legal basis in the treaties. Commission employees' correspondence is not in any way linked to the operation of the U.S. Embassy in Panama and cannot be subject to any privileges not expressly granted by the Panamanian Government.

The Panama Canal Commission, established through Article 3 of the Panama Canal treaties, is not sovereign. It is only a U.S. agency that has Panama's authority to operate in its territory and to fulfill its functions and duties as established in the canal treaties. Its authority does not include the right to extend diplomatic immunities and privileges to individuals who do not hold diplomatic positions in Panama. The fact that Article 8, Paragraph 3 established a limited number of 20 persons who would "enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to diplomatic agents and their dependents in keeping with international practices" is definite proof that the United States recognized that that concession could and can be granted only by the Republic of Panama.

The Panama Canal treaties establish the basic norms regulating the conduct between our two states, which are temporarily associated in the operation of a facility that serves humanity. These norms are that Panama alone is sovereign in its territory and that its laws apply in the areas placed at the disposal of the United States for its use according to the treaty.

In conclusion, Panama categorically rejects the U.S. unfounded and unfair intention to grant diplomatic pouch privileges to canal commission employees not included in the list of 20 persons agreed upon by both sides in the Panama Canal treaties.

Panama interprets this as an action infringing on its rights because it is tantamount to usurping a function that falls exclusively to the Panamanian Government and its territorial sovereignty. This intention does not have a legal basis in the 1961 Vienna convention or in the 1977 Panama Canal treaties.

Meanwhile, as there is no legal basis for the Panama Canal Commission's intention to grant diplomatic pouch privileges to its employees, the Republic of Panama states its conviction that the \$975,900 allotted by the Panama Canal Commission for management of its personnel's correspondence in Panama cannot be attributed to commission's operating expenses and therefore will not be included when calculating the figure of \$10 million agreed upon in Article 13, Paragraph 4 (c) of the Panama Canal treaties.

Apart from this additional consideration, my government is compelled to demand that the U.S. Government revoke this resolution because Panama, in the light of international law and the Panama Canal treaties, is the only entity that can grant diplomatic immunities and privileges to persons other than those in the diplomatic corps accredited before its government.

I take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency my highest regard.

[Signed] Fernando Caroze Fabrega, foreign minister

DEFENSE FORCES DEFEND BUDGET REQUEST AT ASSEMBLY

PA140435 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] During yesterday's sessions at the Legislative Assembly to discuss the budget, the Panamanian Defense Forces, FDP, requested \$96.464 million to be charged to the Government and Justice Ministry.

Journalists were not allowed into the sessions discussing the national budget. However, journalists from Televisora Nacional and Telemetro Television, were let in at 1300 local time.

The Government and Justice Ministry, including the FDP, was scheduled to defend its income and expenses report yesterday.

LA PRENSA learned that General Manuel Antonio Noriega and Chief of Staff Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, accompanied by other FDP members, defended the military organization's budget in the presence of Planning Minister Ricaurte Vasquez and Carlos de Sedas and Emeterio Miller, minister and deputy minister of government and justice, respectively.

The discussion of the armed forces' budget began at about 0945 and ended at about 1600. At this time, the civilian portions of the Government and Justice Ministry's budget should have begun their defense.

A parliamentary source reported that when the legislators asked questions, the military men answered evasively without fully satisfying their questioners.

The FDP stressed their position of not reducing their general budget and thus contradicted the statement made by Lieutenant Colonel Elias Castillo made some days ago to LA PRENSA saying: "The Defense Forces are willing to lower their budget by \$15-\$20 million as a shared sacrifice, because this is a democratic country."

In addition to all the members of the budget commission, headed by legislator Ovidio Diaz, other legislators without voting privileges attended the session.

NORIEGA ADDRESSES 'KINDLE LIBERTY' CONCLUSION

PA142253 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Feb 85 p 46

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander in chief, and his staff participated in the closing ceremony of the "Kindle Liberty" joint exercises, which was held at the FDP central headquarters. The exercises, conducted by Battalion 2000 in Los Santos and Herrera Provinces, were led by Lieutenant Colonel Elias Castillo.

Speaking during the ceremony, Gen Noriega pointed out: "You have just accomplished an intermediate objective. This is a historic victory because, for the first time in Panamanian-U.S. relations, a Panamanian commander has led the exercises."

He also said that these exercises are included in the exercise and training plan for the Defense Forces and added: In a week, we have gained the knowledge that 5,000 men would have learned in 1 year. Later, he stated that the exercises cost the Panamanian Government nothing.

Asked about the benefits and revenue that the country received, Noriega said that these cannot be expressed in monetary terms because the benefits went directly to the region's inhabitants as medical assistance received and roads built.

Regarding the FDP budget cuts, Noriega stressed that the FDP are also part of the government organization and added: "We are to be treated just as other state organizations are."

Noriega also said: "As Panamanians and soldiers, we are proud of fulfilling our training mission so that in the year 2000 we will not be criticized for not being properly trained."

He concluded: "These exercises represent basic military training. Gradually, the FDP will assume the canal's defense. We cannot afford to mishandle this responsibility because of inability or mediocrity. Therefore, the FDP will always assume the same stance of professionalism and faithfulness to Torrijos' statement that in 1999 the last friendly U.S. soldiers will be replaced by a Defense Forces technically superior to any group that might oppose Panamanian sovereignty."

BRIEFS

EL SIGLO DIRECTOR -- Luis Estribi Jr, has been appointed director of the daily newspaper EL SIGLO. He replaces Juan Barrera Salamanca. [Summary] [Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Feb 85 p 4 PA]

FOREIGN MINISTERS COMMUNIQUE ON CONTRADORA MEETING

PA150224 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Joint communique issued by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio, and Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez in San Jose, Costa Rica, dated 14 February -- read by Radio Reloj reporter William Cespedes]

[Text] 1. After meeting in San Jose, the foreign ministers issue the following communique: The ministers stress that the decision of the Salvadoran, Honduran, and Costa Rican Governments not to participate in the Contadora meeting [words indistinct] in Panama City is due to the support of the Salvadoran and Honduran Governments for the stance adopted by the Costa Rican Government in its legitimate defense of the right of asylum, a fundamental tenet of international and American law, which was violated by the Nicaraguan Government. These governments' absence is also due to the fact that no meeting could be held in the absence of one or more Central American countries.

2. The ministers regret the circumstances that forced the Colombian, Mexican, Panamanian, and Venezuelan Governments to suspend the Contadora meeting.

3. The ministers express their deep concern over the Nicaraguan Government's violation of the right of asylum [words indistinct] and not meeting the Costa Rican Government, the OAS, and the Contadora Group's request to resolve the problem created by the Nicaraguan Government.

4. The ministers reassert their firm support for the peace process initiated by the Contadora Group and the commendable efforts [words indistinct] their governments' determination to continue working until a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis is found.

The three foreign ministers also announce that, in addition to the talks with the group of advisers of the three participating governments, they will hold an additional day of meetings to draft a document on international verification and control mechanisms [words indistinct]. They also reassert the three governments' willingness to contribute positively to the negotiating process because, in the end, it is up to the Central American countries to reach an understanding that guarantees a stable, lasting peace in the region.

5. For this reason, the results of this meeting will be immediately submitted to the Contadora Group to be discussed by that organization.

6. The ministers urge the Nicaraguan Government to produce, as soon as possible, a satisfactory solution to the problem represented by Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, who was under diplomatic protection at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. The Salvadoran and Honduran ministers thank the Costa Rican foreign minister for the consideration showed them during their stay in San Jose.

14 February 1985, San Jose

[Signed] Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez

COSTA RICAMONGE TERMS MEETING SUSPENSION 'LOGICAL'

PA141350 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has described the decision by the foreign ministers of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama to suspend the Contadora Group meeting to be held in Panama City as logical. If the five countries are not going to attend, there is no reason to hold a Contadora Group meeting to try to find a peaceful solution to the conflict the region is facing, the president said. He reiterated that as long as Costa Rica's demand regarding respect for the right to asylum is not met, our country will not attend any meeting promoted by Contadora.

EL SALVADORFMLN TO SABOTAGE BUSES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PA150038 San Salvador Raido Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] This morning we received an anonymous telephone call in which the caller said that the FMLN will begin sabotaging transportation services throughout the country at 1230 today. The speaker said that the decision was made in view of statements by the Army against the FMLN. All buses caught in use will be destroyed and the passengers will have to suffer the consequences.

The speaker made special reference to the buses on Route 301 from San Salvador to San Miguel. The FMLN said that whoever challenges this order will have to suffer the consequences.

U.S. HELICOPTER ENTERS FMLN TERRITORY IN MORAZAN

PA141618 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 14 Feb 85

[Text] A U.S. Army helicopter participating in the "Big Pine III" maneuvers in Honduras entered territory controlled by our forces. On Tuesday afternoon a helicopter used for transporting heavy equipment flew over territory under our control in Morazan Department and later landed in Anamoros, La Union Department, where U.S. officers met with Fonseca Battalion officers.

This helicopter flew over the border with Morazan, entering territory under FMLN control in this department. It later flew toward Joateca and Corinto in the northern part of La Union Department, landing in Anamoros. The helicopter is part of the U.S. Air Force fleet participating in the "Big Pine III" maneuvers in Honduras.

Meanwhile, we also have reports that during the second phase of the failed "Torola-5" operation, Honduran Army officers entered Joateca in Morazan Department, where they met with officers from the so-called Arce Battalion, also trained in Honduras by U.S. advisers. These two incidents clearly prove that the United States is intensifying plans to use the joint military maneuvers in Honduras to implement interventionist operations against our fatherland, interventionist actions in which the Honduran, Salvadoran, and U.S. Armies will participate in a joint and coordinated manner.

D'AUBUISSON 'ALLY' ARRESTED IN UNITED STATES

PA141703 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Francisco Guirola, one of Roberto D'Aubuisson's closest allies, was arrested in Texas, accused of trafficking in drugs and arms to collect funds for the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA. Guirola, a millionaire and founder of the death squads, said in Texas that he was sent to the United States by Roberto D'Aubuisson. At the time of his arrest, Guirola was carrying \$7 million from his contraband dealings. It turns out that ARENA, apart from being the death squads' political front, is also a Mafia that deals in drugs. This is the kind of democratic party that will participate in the upcoming elections.

GUATEMALA'EXPLORATORY' TALKS ON BELIZE DISPUTE END

FL141700 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The talks of ending the dispute between Belize and Guatemala have ended without any firm conclusions. Diplomats from the two Central American countries met with British representatives on Tuesday in New York. The meeting was said to be exploratory and no communique was issued. Guatemala's claim on Belize goes back to the last century to when Britain took the territory from Spain. While at one time it claimed all of Belize, Guatemala has reportedly changed its demands to ask for more access to the Caribbean Sea and the right to build a pipeline through Belizian territory.

CDHG REPORTS UN HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION

PA140220 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 8 Feb 85 p 40

[Advertisement by the Guatemalan Commission for Human Rights, CDHG, member of the International Federation for Human Rights, FIDH, and the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America]

[Excerpts] The CDHG, a nongovernmental humanitarian organization and member of the FIDH, an organization accredited at the United Nations with consultative status and at the European Council, reports to sectors of the Guatemalan society:

1. Since 18 November 1984, the CDHG has occupied the Latin American vice presidency of the FIDH, a post for which it was unanimously elected during the biennial FIDH congress held in Paris, France.
2. On 14 December 1984, the UN General Assembly met in New York for its 39th session and issued Resolution No 39-120, condemning the violation of human rights in Guatemala, which was approved by a vote of 85-11. The resolution was based on several reports presented by national and international humanitarian organizations, including the CDHG, regarding the human rights situation in Guatemala.

Given the resolution's importance, the CDHG reveals to the Guatemalan people its complete text and a list of UN member countries which voted for or against the resolution. It is appropriate to mention that the resolution was proposed by Sweden and supported by the following countries: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Spain, France, Greece, Ireland, Norway, and the Netherlands.

UN General Assembly, 39th General Assembly, Resolution No 39-120, 14 December 1984: report from the Economic and Social Council on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala:

The UN General Assembly reiterates that all member governments have the duty to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in Resolution Nos 37-184, dated 17 December 1982, and 38-100, dated 16 December 1983.

Considering CDHG Resolution No 1984-53, issued on 14 March 1984, which states deep concern for persistent, mass violations of human rights in Guatemala;

Considering Resolution No 1984-23, issued by the Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and in which the subcommission recognizes, among other things, the existence in Guatemala of an armed, noninternational conflict, derived from structural economic, social, and political factors;

Considering the July 1984 elections to elect Constituent Assembly members and fulfill the first phase of the electoral process to install a new constitutional government, according to the calendar proposed by the Guatemalan Government and emphasizing the importance of creating conditions so that the electoral process may be held in a climate of intimidation and terror;

Concerned by the persistent acts of violence with political motives, including murders and kidnappings;

Also concerned for the large number of persons still reported missing and the uncertain future of those who, according to reports, were sentenced by special tribunals, which have been abolished;

Welcoming with pleasure the cooperation offered by the Guatemalan Government to the special investigator for fulfillment of his duties, and considering with satisfaction that the special investigator has now been supplied with a list of all cases handled by special tribunals:

1. Due note has been taken of the provisional report presented by the special investigator regarding the human rights situation in Guatemala, which was presented according to Resolution No 1984-53, issued by the CDHG on 14 March 1984.
2. The UN General Assembly reiterates its deep concern for the persistent and generalized grave violations of human rights in Guatemala, particularly the acts of violence against nonmilitary personnel; missing people and murders; and generalized repression, including the use of torture, eviction of Indians and inhabitants of rural areas and their confinement in development centers, and their forced participation in civilian patrols organized and controlled by the Armed Forces.
3. The Guatemalan Government is once more urged to adopt efficient measures to guarantee that all its authorities and organizations, including the security forces, fully respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.
4. A call is renewed to the Guatemalan Government to abstain from forcibly evicting inhabitants from rural and Indian zones and forcing them to participate in civilian patrols, because this leads to human rights violations.

5. It is welcomed that many people sentenced by special tribunals have now been released; the Guatemalan Government is invited to publish a list of cases which have been handled by special tribunals.
6. The Guatemalan Government is asked to investigate and clarify the fate of those who have disappeared in a forcible or involuntary way and whose whereabouts are still unknown, and to put a stop to arbitrary arrests and incarcerations in secret places.
7. The Guatemalan Government is urged to create the necessary conditions to guarantee an independent juridical system; to defend the enforcement of laws, including the right of habeas corpus, and to try efficiently and punish quickly anyone found guilty of violating human rights, including Armed Forces and security corps members.
8. The Guatemalan Government is urged to allow an independent and impartial organization in the country to watch for and investigate any reports on human rights violations.
9. A call is reiterated to all interested Guatemalan parties to enforce pertinent laws and norms regarding international human rights which are applicable to armed noninternational conflicts, to protect the civilian population and to try to stop all acts of violence.
10. A call is issued to the Guatemalan Government to allow international humanitarian organizations to provide assistance in the investigation of missing people's welfare so that their relatives may know of their whereabouts, to visit arrested people or prisoners, and to give assistance to the civilian population living in zones of conflict.
11. Governments are urged to abstain from providing weapons and other kinds of military assistance to Guatemala as long as grave violations of human rights continue in that country.
12. The Guatemalan Government is urged to create an atmosphere free of intimidation and terror, thus allowing all people's free participation in the political process.
13. The Guatemalan Government and all interested parties are invited to continue cooperating with the special investigator of the Commission for Human Rights.
14. The Commission for Human Rights is asked to closely study the special investigator's report and any other information regarding human rights in Guatemala and to consider the adoption of additional measures to ensure the effective respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout that country.
15. It has been decided to continue examining human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala, during its 41st session.

For a peoples' right to live.

[Signed] CDHG Directorate Board

Guatemala, January 1985

HONDURASPAZ BARNICA SEES ORTEGA-BORGE POWER STRUGGLE

PA150339 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0236 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpts] San Jose, Costa Rica, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said in this capital today that there seems to be a "power struggle" between Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Interior Minister Tomas Borge.

According to the Honduran official, this would explain the Sandinist government's "intransigence" in the Jose Manuel Urbina Lara case. Urbina Lara is the political refugee who was taken from the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua by the Nicaraguan police on 24 December 1984.

Paz Barnica insisted that "there seems to be a power struggle inside Nicaragua." Paz Barnica added that "this is gathered from information received from diplomatic sources, who said that the president (Ortega) had offered to seek another way to resolve the problem by allowing Urbina Lara to leave the country, but he did not do it."

"It seems to me...I get the feeling that there is a conflict between Mr Ortega and Mr Borge, who is in charge of Urbina," Paz Barnica stressed.

Paz Barnica said that if a country, in this case Nicaragua, "does not accept, or violates, an important tenet such as the right to asylum, how can we trust it to respect future agreements in regard to peace and cooperation, such as the Contadora Document?"

"We believe that Contadora must be strengthened by means of strengthening Central American democratic governments," Paz Barnica added.

Also, "Contadora will become stronger to the extent that the countries of the area are willing to fulfill international treaties and commitments, in good faith, and if Nicaragua stops intervening in the domestic matters of other countries," the minister insisted.

Meanwhile, during the inauguration of a factory in San Jose, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge told the press that he rejects the charge that Costa Rica boycotted the meeting of the Contadora Group in Panama City on Thursday.

The president added that "those who obstruct the peacemaking efforts of the group are those who cannot maintain a policy of respectful coexistence."

The president also expressed his trust that "the pressure exerted by the governments of the Contadora Group and by the democratic governments of the world will in the end force Nicaragua to release the young refugee Urbina Lara."

BRIEFS

NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR -- Tegucigalpa -- Edouard de Blandre, the new French ambassador to Honduras, presented his credentials yesterday to President Roberto Suazo Cordova in the Government House. Formerly, he was the consul in Lebanon. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 12 Feb 85 p 5 PA]

NICARAGUACOMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CONTADORA POSTPONEMENT

PA142304 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Feb 85 p 3

[Official communique issued by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman in Managua; date not given]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government hereby reports to our people and the international community that the Contadora Group's negotiating process, sponsored by the Governments of Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela with the noble purpose of achieving peace and security in Central America based on guarantees, through solemn international pledges, for the strictest respect of the principles of nonintervention, self-determination, and the nonuse or threat of force in relations between states, is seriously affected by the irresponsible and warmongering policy of the U.S. Government which, rejecting dialogue and negotiation, is trying to impose its will militarily.

Throughout the lengthy and difficult Contadora process, the whole world has witnessed Nicaragua's attitude and the specific contributions our government has made to strengthen the process and ensure its successful culmination.

Immediately after the Contadora declaration was issued on 9 January 1983, through which the Contadora Group was created, Nicaragua offered its unrestricted support and requested that the declaration be supported by the representatives of 88 countries gathered in Managua for the special ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau on Latin America and the Caribbean. This support was stated in the historical final communique issued by the meeting, giving unprecedented international support to Contadora a mere 5 days after the declaration was issued.

That same year, and always seeking to strengthen the Contadora Group's peace initiative, on 19 May 1983 Nicaragua presented a resolution to the UN Security Council. The result was Resolution 530, in which the Security Council:

1. Reasserted the right of Nicaragua and all other countries in the region to live in peace and security, free of foreign intervention;
2. Welcomed the Contadora Group's efforts and urged that every possible effort be exerted;
3. Issued an urgent call to interested states to cooperate fully with the Contadora Group through a frank and constructive dialogue to solve their differences;
4. Urged the Contadora Group to exert every possible effort to find a solution to regional problems and to keep the Security Council informed of the results of these efforts;
5. Asked the UN secretary general to keep the Security Council informed on the situation and the enforcement of this resolution.

Based on its willingness to achieve peace, its proven support for Contadora, and its compliance with Security Council Resolution 530, Nicaragua has exerted every possible effort to help the Contadora Group achieve the goal that our people, the Central American peoples, and the international community as a whole are justly demanding.

Consequently, on 15 October 1983 Nicaragua officially presented to Contadora its proposal regarding the legal bases to guarantee peace and security in Central America. This included four draft agreements based on the basic principles of international law which must be the guidelines for relations between states, according to the UN Charter and within the spirit of the document of goals issued by the fourth joint meeting of the Contadora Group and Central American foreign ministers.

Later, during the joint meeting of the Contadora Group and Central American foreign ministers held in Washington on 14 November 1983, the Contadora Group foreign ministers stated how difficult it was to advance the process because, despite repeated requests from Contadora that all Central American foreign ministries submit proposals on how to fulfill that stated in the document of objectives, only Nicaragua had presented a proposal. It was difficult to reconcile the positions of the five countries since only one of them had presented proposals and the other four had remained silent. The Central American countries agreed to set a deadline, 1 December, to present specific and detailed proposals. Despite this agreement, Nicaragua was again the only country to fulfill its duty and present proposals complementary to those presented on 15 October, thus addressing the document of objectives in its entirety. The whole world can witness Nicaragua's serious position by studying all these documents.

Due to the lack of compliance and cooperation shown by other Central American countries regarding the Contadora Group's efforts, Contadora proposed a new working method which, quoting the Contadora Group's foreign ministers, "after a lengthy consultation process and broad exchange of views with all Central American governments" led to the presentation of a proposed document for peace and cooperation in Central America on 7 September 1984. According to the Contadora Group, this document "reflects the observations and comments that the five Central American Governments issued regarding the project." Therefore, the Contadora Group foreign ministers stated at the 6-7 September meeting that this concluded the work of the commissions and the technical group, as established in the note that accompanied the document. The note said: "It is now the Central American Governments' political responsibility to enforce the pledges which have been established during the process...The signing of the Contadora Group Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America must lead to the establishment of a legal basis for mutually respectful coexistence, which is absolutely essential to achieve the political and economic stability sought by peoples in the area."

The Contadora Group foreign ministers said in the same note that, "due to the imminent danger to peace, it is necessary that governments in the region step up the adoption of the legal pledges stated in the Contadora Document."

Following a careful study of the official proposal presented by Contadora on 7 September, and as a reply to the urgent call issued by Contadora regarding the acceptance of the document -- despite the sacrifice it meant for our government to accept all the points due to the political, economic, and military aggression imposed by the United States on Nicaragua through a so-called "covert war" -- on 21 September 1984 Nicaragua informed the Contadora Group presidents of its decision to sign immediately, without modifications, the draft document dated 7 September, fully complying with what the Contadora foreign ministers stated in their note regarding the fact that "negotiating means partially giving in to obtain a final goal which is judged essential." For Nicaragua, this final and essential goal is the achievement of peace in Central America, peace that all our peoples demand as an indispensable condition to initiate the tasks of our political, social, and economic development. For the sake of this peace, Nicaragua decided not even to present suggestions for modifications, which could be presented according to the foreign ministers, because it was believed that these would be used to make things more difficult and delay the document's signature with useless arguments with no substantial meaning because, quoting the Contadora Group foreign ministers, the substantial aspects of the proposal then could

The announcement that Nicaragua would sign the document provoked an immediate and abrupt reaction from the U.S. Government, which forced the Honduran, Salvadoran, and Costa Rican Governments to renege on their initial acceptance and support for the draft document. This was demonstrated with the publication of an official document of the U.S. Security Council, dated 30 October 1984, in which it asserts that "following thorough consultations between the U.S. Government and El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, these Central American countries presented a counterproposal to the Contadora Group countries on 20 October 1984. This document reflects many of our worries and changes the Contadora Group's orientation, a document which is drafted in general terms favoring U.S. interests." This statement allows the U.S. Government to celebrate its victory, in the same document, by asserting that "we have achieved an effective boycott of the Contadora Group's efforts to impose its revised draft document." In due time Nicaragua stated that the U.S. Government's interventionist attitude against Contadora had not only obstructed the possibility of signing the Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America, but also represented a blow from which, in our opinion, the Contadora negotiating process would never recover.

In accordance with its policy of effectively boycotting Contadora, the U.S. Government has resorted to using the Costa Rican news media to promote a warmongering policy in the region and discredit the Contadora process through a campaign which due to its virulence could only have been organized by the CIA, to exert pressure on the Costa Rican Government to present conditions for its future participation in the Contadora process based on Nicaragua's acceptance of arbitrary demands to resolve a nonexistent violation of the right of asylum, in violation of the established mechanisms to resolve this kind of problems.

It is ironic that Costa Rica, a country which has been characterized by the most flagrant and systematic violation of international norms on the right to asylum, is trying to justify its nonparticipation in the Contadora process by using arguments that are absolutely unjustifiable. Undoubtedly, the repeated evidence of Nicaragua's willingness to find a peaceful solution within the Contadora Group's framework led the Costa Rican Government to the conclusion that since Nicaragua is a country subject to U.S. aggression, it could be subject to all kinds of pressures and blackmail because Nicaragua, according to high Costa Rican Government officials, is the country most interested in the signing of a peace agreement within the Contadora Group's framework.

This latest maneuver, which led to the suspension of the meeting convoked by Contadora for 14-15 February to which Nicaragua had sent a delegation, proves that the U.S. Government has sought an effective boycott of Contadora and literally obstructs the possible solution of a process that demands that all interested countries make their own decisions based on their national interests without the intervention or interference of third countries.

The U.S. Government's attitude is a matter for even more serious concern because it comes after that government unilaterally decided to indefinitely postpone the bilateral talks in Manzanillo and to deny the international court of justice's jurisdiction over the demand presented by Nicaragua by withdrawing from the proceedings while the case was in court -- an unprecedented action.

It is obvious that the U.S. Government's goal is, through the use of covert interventionism disguised as blackmail against certain Central American countries' participation in the negotiation process, to challenge Nicaragua through those governments and to evade direct responsibility for the failure of a negotiation process, a process which would only be considered viable by the United States if it fully supported a policy in violation of international juridical norms and the UN Charter.

These facts prove that the only means to prevent that Contadora fails or is deadlocked is for the U.S. Government to accept as soon as possible the renewal of the bilateral dialogue with Nicaragua in Manzanillo and to abide by the protection measures ordered by the international court of justice. This is intended to establish the bases for anegotiation allowing for the normalization of relations between our two countries. The Central American countries will be able to advance without U.S. interference or pressure in the Contadora process only if this goal is achieved which would establish a basis for security and mutually respectful coexistence, which is absolutely necessary to guarantee the peace and political and economic stability sought by the Central American peoples.

Nicaragua reiterates its support for Contadora and, consequently, ratifies its willingness to continue participating in the process, exerting itself as long as necessary so that the United States returns to the bilateral talks in Manzanillo. This position is fully supported by Contadora and the entire international community.

In addition, Nicaragua reiterates its total and unrestricted compliance with the norms of international coexistence and the peaceful solution of controversies, as stated in the UN Charter, and also reiterates its respect for the international court of justice.

OFFICIAL STATES URBINA LARA MATTER 'CLOSED'

PA150237 Paris AFP in Spanish 0237 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Managua, 14 Feb (AFP) -- The Sandinist government today reiterated that "the matter is closed" regarding its diplomatic difference with Costa Rica over the case of asylum seeker Jose Manuel Urbina Lara which has jeopardized the peace negotiations of the Contadora Group. Sources at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry thus disavowed a statement reportedly made on Thursday by Aquiles Centeno, Nicaraguan ambassador to Czechoslovakia, that Nicaragua was willing to release Urbina. The Nicaraguan ambassador in Prague said that the Sandinists had decided to send Urbina to Mexico so that "Costa Rica's excuses abstain from attending the Contadora meeting would no longer be valid."

However, a ranking Foreign Ministry official rejected the notion and said: "For us, the Urbina matter is closed. He is not an asylum seeker, but a deserter from the military service."

Meanwhile, Humberto Jurado, press officer at the Mexican Embassy in Managua, said that he had no knowledge of plans to send Urbina to Mexico. A statement by Jesus Fernandez, Costa Rica's ambassador in Managua, followed along similar lines. "We have no official notice from the Sandinist government indicating that there has been a change regarding the Urbina case. However, we hope that the problem will be resolved soon," he stated.

Urbina To Be Tried

PA141650 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Feb 85 p 12

[Text] Second Lieutenant Merlo, Interior Ministry [MINT] spokesman, told a Managua radio station yesterday that Jose Manuel Urbina Lara will be tried at the Anti-Somozist People's Court. Press reports from Costa Rica disclosed that Nicaragua would release Urbina Lara to Costa on Thursday during the Contadora Group meeting in Panama, but these reports were officially denied by the MINT spokesman yesterday. Merlo told "Radio Informaciones" that Urbina Lara would be accused of evading his responsibility of participating in the Patriotic Military Service. "He will be accused of being a deserter," he confirmed. The Urbina Lara incident at the Costa Rican Embassy on 24 December 1984 has strained Nicaraguan-Costa Rican diplomatic relations.

RAMIREZ BLAMES U.S. FOR CONTADORA POSTPONEMENT

PA141742 Paris AFP in Spanish 1445 GMT 14 Feb 85

[By Edouard Pons]

[Text] Paris, 14 Feb (AFP) -- Today in Paris Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez asked French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius for his government's intervention before the Reagan administration to try to convince that administration to resume the bilateral dialogue interrupted in January.

During a meeting with Fabius today which he described as "very cordial and broad," Ramirez, who arrived in France yesterday for a 5-day visit, urged the French official to have "the French Government make an effort before the U.S. Government so that the talks in Manzanillo (Mexico), which it unilaterally interrupted, will be resumed immediately," Ramirez told newsmen. "We are sure that we will receive the French Government's support in this matter," he asserted when asked about Fabius' response.

The French side stressed that the prime minister told Ramirez that "his government will continue to endorse any initiative associated with peace, negotiation, and respect for the peoples' right to self-determination," and reaffirmed France's "friendship with and understanding" for Nicaragua.

Questioned about the suspension of the Contadora Group meeting originally scheduled for today in Panama after Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador refused to participate, Ramirez blamed the U.S. Government. According to him, this "resulted from the negative campaign that the U.S. Government is developing to prevent a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict. Everything seems to indicate that the U.S. Government is closing the doors to negotiation, dialogue, and understanding while the U.S. Congress discusses additional military support to the counterrevolution." "Until that law (which would grant \$14 million in aid to the anti-Sandinist groups) is rejected, as we are sure it will be, we will experience very critical weeks marked by a toughening of the U.S. policy and the closing of any other possibility for dialogue," he added.

On the stance adopted by Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras, Ramirez stated: "We do not blame those countries. These countries are weak when faced with pressures from the United States, whose meddling distorts the political will of those countries." "We are saying only that there is a major culprit: U.S. policy. However, we are certain that we will some day reestablish the fraternal ties we have always had with the Central American countries," he added.

According to French sources, during his meeting with Fabius the Nicaraguan vice president also told him about "the extremely difficult economic situation" in his country, which recently forced his government to adopt drastic measures (currency devaluation, the elimination of the subsidies for staples, price hikes). Fabius stressed France's willingness to provide financial aid to Nicaragua, but "with respect for international financial norms." A source close to the prime minister indicated that this entails an arrangement between Nicaragua and the IMF. The source added that the French Government made several very interesting financial proposals for relaunching the implementation of the financial agreement signed by the two countries. Nicaragua will study these proposals.

On another subject, in his statements for the French press Ramirez indicated that the Sandinist government is willing to sanction a law on "administrative autonomy" for the Miskitos, who would be able "to elect their local authorities and administer a part of their resources."

Ramirez and French Economy Minister Pierre Beregovoy signed a protocol yesterday under which France, as it has been doing since 1981, donates 10,000 tons of wheat to Nicaragua. Ramirez also met with External Relations Minister Roland Dumas, essentially in connection with the [words indistinct] tomorrow he will meet with Culture Minister Jack Lang and with Senate President Alain Poher.

Ramirez' visit to Paris [words indistinct] also the governments to pressure the Reagan administration to resume its dialogue [words indistinct].

SOVIET ENVOY: USSR TO SUPPLY REQUESTED WEAPONS

FL141627 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] San Jose 14 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Soviet Ambassador to Nicaragua Yuriy Pavlov has stated that his country will give Nicaragua all the weapons it requests to defend itself in the undeclared war it is suffering.

He told NOTIMEX, however, that nuclear weapons would be delivered to Nicaragua because the Soviet Union as well as the United States should responsibly seek to maintain peace in all regions of the world.

He added that Nicaragua in no way threatens the security of the United States, although the tens of thousands of U.S. Marines in Panama and Honduras as well as warships and spy flights authorized by Washington do threaten Nicaragua.

He pointed out that it does not make sense to compare the Sandinist government's military power with that of its Central American neighbors because what actually should be compared is Nicaragua's power and that of its attackers. For example, ships such as those sent to Central America by the U.S. Navy have greater destructive capability than any weapons used in World War II.

He specified that despite the size of the foreign forces that are Nicaragua's enemies, the Soviet Union is not considering providing nuclear weapons to Nicaragua, which limits itself to its own defense and, according to the UN Charter, every state has the right to self-defense.

Pavlov predicted that the final results of the Contadora Group's efforts and the outcome of the present crisis in Central America depend a great deal on U.S. interference in Nicaraguan affairs.

He said that there would undoubtedly be official Soviet support for the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America if Moscow were formally asked to support it. But, he said, his country is outside the region and the Caribbean Basin.

He recalled that from the beginning, the Soviet Government had announced its desire for the advancement of the peace process and the search for political solutions promoted by Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela.

Nevertheless, he said, there are others who pay lip service to Contadora but do everything possible to prevent its consolidation and block its efforts, despite the fact that it received a clear mandate from the OAS.

Noting with irony that no nation had voted against Contadora in the OAS, Pavlov said everyone knows the origins of recent problems facing Contadora proposals.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES REAGAN SUPPORT FOR CONTRAS

PA140444 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] In his speech before a joint session of the U.S. Congress last Wednesday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan cynically stated that the United States is destined to greatness. Reagan said that U.S. support for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries' struggle is in line with the UN and OAS Charters. However, Article 18 of the OAS Charter clearly stipulates that no state or group of states is entitled to intervene directly or indirectly in the domestic affairs of other countries. Nevertheless, Reagan and his administration flagrantly violate the UN and OAS Charters by supporting and financing the counterrevolution in Nicaragua.

BEGINNING OF 'BIG PINE III' IN HONDURAS NOTED

PA140448 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] U.S.-made C-130 aircraft kicked off the "Big Pine III" military maneuvers in Honduras by transporting war materiel, combat personnel, and logistics support. The movement of military equipment includes the deployment of M-60 tanks and M-113 armored vehicles. Some 4,500 U.S. and 8,000 Honduran troops are participating in the war exercises, viewed as another attempt to intimidate the Sandinist people's revolution and to supply arms to Somozist counterrevolutionaries. The development of the first phase of the Honduran-U.S. operation will cover most of Honduran territory, where there are eight U.S. military bases and nine U.S. military landing strips.

ORTEGA SENDS MESSAGE ON LATIN AMERICA TO 'ARAFAT

PA142142 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0054 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, 13 Feb (EFE) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has sent Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat a message in which he discusses the situation in Latin America, particularly in Nicaragua. According to the Palestinian news agency WAFA, the message was handed to the president of the PLO by Nicaragua Transportation Minister Mario Terina [name and title as received] in Tunis. PLO sources told EFE that details on the Nicaraguan minister's visit to Tunis have not been released but that he is not expected to meet with any Tunisian Government official.

This is the third time in less than a year that a Nicaraguan transportation minister has visited Tunisia to deliver messages from Daniel Ortega to the Palestinian leader. The first visit by then Transportation Minister Carlos Zarruck, took place last June and the second in September.

BORGE SAYS FDN PLANNING TO KILL PASTORA

PA140440 Paris AFP in Spanish 1619 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Managua, 12 Feb (AFP) -- The local press reported today that Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has said that a counterrevolutionary group plans to kill rebel leader Eden Pastora. Borge said that the plan was devised by Adolfo Calero, head of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), who "is only waiting for CIA approval.

Pastora, a former Sandinist deputy defense minister, is now the top leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), which operates in Nicaragua's southeastern region.

Borge said that the alleged assassination plot is aimed at frustrating "Pastora's pretensions of controlling the counterrevolutionary structures."

In May of last year, Pastors was wounded in a bomb attack on Nicaragua's southern border, while he was holding a press conference in which he announced that he would not join the U.S.-financed and armed FDN.

WHEELOCK DISCUSSES, ANALYZES ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA150256 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, in a television appearance yesterday, made a broad analysis of the current economic crisis, its effects, and the reasons for the measures adopted by the government, which are already being put into effect.

In his analysis, the minister of agriculture, livestock development and agrarian reform mentioned that the main cause for the economic crisis is the imperialist aggression against the revolution. Other factors or causes that prompted these economic measures are the inheritance of a totally destroyed country, which created the need to protect the people with measures such as the agrarian reform, a more rational distribution of resources, the nationalization of the banks and foreign trade, and the fight against unemployment. The world crisis is another factor that renders reconstruction efforts more difficult, in addition to the drop in prices of our exports and the excessive increase in the costs of products imported for our basic needs, the commander said.

Wheelock said this situation also affects nations with strong economies, such as France, Spain, and Mexico, and naturally poor nations such as Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. He underlined, however, that the greatest negative effect has been caused by aggression. Regarding this, Wheelock said:

[Begin recording] Aggression is no doubt the one thing that has hit hardest at our reconstruction efforts and our efforts to improve the people's economy. Since 1982, the CIA, directly or through Somozist mercenary forces, has centered its efforts on the destruction of productive centers, on the interruption of production and the harvesting of crops. It has also directed systematic operations to weaken our mining, fishing, and forestry production. It has organized financial blockades and prevented free access to trade at all our ports to interrupt the supply of basic products. It has put pressure on various countries to suspend their relations with Nicaragua and to suspend preferential quotas for the export of Nicaraguan products such as sugar. In addition, we have lost thousands of lives. This has been our most important loss. There are many workers who have been wounded and disabled, while 35,000 families have been moved to over 250 settlements.

The terrorist actions of the mercenary bands, promoted by the CIA, have slaughtered, murdered, and maimed children along with their parents and other relatives. Such acts of aggression have also been directed against productive infrastructures, resulting in damage to our ports, storage centers, silos, and construction and transportation equipment. Many centers of education and health have been totally or partially destroyed, as have nurseries and other social installations in the past 3 years of aggression.

Although the Somozist aggression does not endanger the revolutionary government, nor will it ever dominate or demoralize the courageous Nicaraguan people, we must admit that it has affected material production and, consequently, the quantity of basic goods required by the people.

As a result of aggression we have been forced to use resources that should have been invested in the production of assets and the creation of services to the people to relocate displaced communities, make up financial losses, and absorb the costs of helping a very large population affected by all of the above. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Commander Wheelock indicated that in addition to these factors outside our control, there is another point: the economic policy adopted to defend the workers. It is necessary, however, to correct some factors which have contributed to the crisis, such as the expansion of budgets and agricultural credits, subsidization and using resources for nonpriority efforts. He added that in order to return to a stable, centralized administration, it is necessary to adopt new measures, some of which will become effective next week, such as the following:

[Begin recording] The first objective, logically, in the face of such a serious situation of aggression, is to support the military defense of the revolution, which means that material, human, and capital resources should be dedicated first to the defense of the nation. Our second objective is to foster and stimulate material production for defense, that is boots, uniforms, and medicine. Next in importance is the production of consumer goods, namely basic products and all those fundamental for the civilian population. We must also support the nation's export production for the acquisition of exchange necessary for the basic functioning of the economy. Finally, we will support infrastructures such as roads, energy, transport, and so on to support the three priority areas previously mentioned.

The third objective of the economic policy is to take measures to check the confusion that has been occurring regarding domestic prices, salaries, black marketing, speculation, etc. In this regard, we will be firm and determined. If we are not, our economy will lose the popular nature given it by the revolution. We must say that this confusion has been undermining the economic groundwork that we have working to organize. This confusion affects the mixed economy, private and state producers, formally established merchants, and in general, all producers, workers, and the entire country.

The main measures we have adopted aim at containment, regulation, order, and control. Some of the most important measures are:

1. We will reduce expenses and increase fiscal revenues in order to reduce the budget deficit we have been enduring for years.
2. We will suspend and regulate new investment plans that are not indispensable to strengthen production, economy, and defense. These investment plans really affect consumers directly and indirectly, because we spend money on these plans that could otherwise be used for basic goods.
3. We will eliminate subsidies; rather, we will transfer them in the form of salaries to production workers mainly and, in general, to all salaried workers. In this way, we will continue to protect the salaries of workers. Of course the elimination of subsidies will have the effect, in addition to other exchange measures, of raising consumer prices. Compensatory adjustments, however, will be made to salaries so that workers will be the least affected.
4. We have adopted a series of actions against speculation and hoarding for the benefit of honest merchants.
5. We will establish banking policies to support production and prevent the deterioration of the few and limited financial resources we have.

6. The Nicaraguan currency will have to be readjusted to an exchange rate that protects producers and does not necessitate subsidies, which would incur losses.

7. While the established commercial channels continue to be strengthened, we have temporarily agreed to supply basic goods directly to commissaries through production centers. This will mean that in most production centers, both industrial and agro-industrial, as well as others of importance, workers will be able to buy basic goods without having to endure price hikes due to speculation and intermediaries. [end recording]

OPPOSITION TO ISSUE 'LAST SUMMONS' TO GOVERNMENT

PA142348 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 8 Feb 85 p 19 A

[Report by Luis Rojas Coles]

[Text] The leaders of the opposition to the FSLN will soon issue what is already being described as the "last summons" [ultimo emplazamiento] for the Sandinist regime to bring about a political opening in Nicaragua as soon as possible.

"It could be said that we are laying at a good pace the groundwork for a valid solution in accordance with the law and the Nicaraguan people's spirit and for achieving a truly democratic solution to the conflict in our country."

This is how Dr Arturo Cruz, a political leader who opposes the regime in Managua, described the summons. No date has been set for presenting this summons.

In an exclusive interview for LA NACION, Dr Cruz, who was in San Jose accompanied by Alfonso Robelo, another ranking opposition leader, asserted strongly that if this "new attempt to achieve peace fails, we will have to resort to other means of pressure."

Cruz believes that all dissident leaders must endorse this action if it is to succeed.

"Commander Pastora is vital in our efforts," he said, evidently referring to the need to reach an agreement with the chief of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's (ARDE) military branch.

According to international reports received from Miami, Pastora set conditions the day before yesterday for reaching any understanding with the opposition when he said: "We will never negotiate our people's freedom. Our country's freedom is not negotiable."

According to Cruz, the top leaders opposing Sandinism held an informal 10-day meeting in Miami to lay the groundwork for issuing the "last summons."

For Cruz, the need to secure a peaceful solution to Nicaragua's domestic crisis is unpostponable, because Central American stability is endangered. "If no solution is found to this problem, which affects not only Nicaraguan dissidents, a veritable conflagration could envelop Central America."

He added that although the efforts made by the Cantadora Group (Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico) have checked the escalation of an armed conflict on the isthuss, they have not provided a truly acceptable solution and apparently no fundamental importance has been attached to the democratization of Nicaragua.

According to Dr Cruz, during the talks held in Miami the leaders opposed to the FSLN exchanged views and took important steps toward achieving "common unity."

In this regard, Robelo also asserted that various agreements were reached concerning the view that the unity of action supposedly achieved is a last option for achieving pacification.

According to Robelo: "If the summons that will be issued to the Sandinist government is rejected, the door to a negotiated solution will be practically closed."

Asked about the possibility that the opposition's requests might fail to find fertile soil in Nicaragua, Dr Cruz answered: "Those in arms will become the swords of democracy."

If necessary, he added, an entire diplomatic operation" will be launched in the democracy loving world and military actions will obviously be bolstered.

Although he chose not to give details about this last aspect, he said he is a "firm believer that Eden Pastora must join the other opposition groups."

He stressed that he met with Commander Cero [Pastora] in Washington and that only the dday before yesterday he had toured the San Juan River and met with several followers, whose patriotism he noticed despite their lack of resources.

He later dismissed the possibility that a foreign invasion might be staged against Nicaragua and advocated a "domestic solution" to the situation. However, he explained that political and military support from democracies is needed to fight the advance of leftist totalitarianism.

Finally, Cruz said "Central America's political future is" now "at stake."

BRIEFS

LOAN FROM SWEDEN -- Stockholm (ANN) -- It has been reported here that the Swedish Government has granted a 40-million krona loan (approximately \$4.5 million) to the Nicaraguan government. The agreement was signed by Bernt Ljungren, deputy director of the Swedish Agency for Export Credits; Anders Forsee, director general of the International Development Agency; and Jorge Jenkins, Nicaraguan ambassador in Stockholm. The loan will be used by the Sandinist government to purchase mining equipment and milking machines. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Feb 85 p 12 PA]

PEACE COMMITTEES AGREEMENT -- Olga Avilez, president of the Nicaraguan Peace Committee, and (Elvin McDavis), president of the Guyanese Peace Committee, have signed a reciprocal cooperation agreement. They will exchange information and will engage in joint activities to preserve peace. Nicaragua will also participate in three international conferences that will be held in Guyana soon. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 85 PA]

CASTRO DISCUSSES U.S., INTERNATIONAL DEBT

PA142248 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] President Fidel Castro has said that it would be beneficial for the United States to cease being a declared enemy of all social change in Latin America and to learn to coexist.

In an interview granted to the U.S. Television Public Broadcasting Service, the second [as received] part of which was transmitted last night on the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour, Fidel referred to various problems in the region, particularly the economic situation. In this respect, Castro said that unless the international bankers grant an extended grace period for Latin America's foreign debt payments, there could be chaos on the continent.

Regarding the situation in Chile, Castro said that the United States is exerting pressure to overthrow Augusto Pinochet's regime because it fears that the current popular protests could lead to another Nicaragua in South America.

Regarding the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro said that in reality it has surpassed our dreams. He added: Although we are a peaceful country, we have millions of armed men prepared to defend their homeland.

USSR-NICARAGUA MARITIME SERVICE INAUGURATED

PA142233 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] It has been officially reported that a regular maritime line linking the ports of Leningrad in the USSR and Corinto in Nicaragua was inaugurated today. The (Reulzer) vessels, the largest in the Soviet merchant fleet, will transport agricultural machinery, containerized industrial equipment, and food products to Nicaragua.

MONTANE MEETS WITH PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST MAYOR

FL141702 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Alternate Politburo member Jesus Montane, has visited Aviz city hall and an agricultural cooperative in that Portuguese area. Montane has been in Portugal since Monday. He was invited by the Portuguese Communist Party. Aviz has a Communist mayor, Antonio (Raimundo Bartolomeo) with whom the alternate Politburo member and his delegation met.

C.R. RODRIGUEZ, SOVIET AMBASSADOR ATTEND CEREMONY

FL140204 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Konstantin Katushev have presided over the commemorative event held on the 25th anniversary of the signing of the first trade agreement between Cuba and the USSR. The closing speech was made by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the State Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

CONGOLESE EDUCATION MINISTER VISITS UNIVERSITY

FL150030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Daniel Abibi, Central Committee secretary of the Congolese Labor Party and minister of secondary and higher education, and his delegation today visited the Jose Antonio Echevarria Polytechnic Institute. The delegation has been in Cuba since Tuesday.

RISQUET MEETS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU HEALTH MINISTER

FL142356 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Jorge Risquet, Politburo and Secretariat member of the party's Central Committee, has met with Alexander Nunes Correia, Central Committee member of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde [PAIGC] and public health minister of Guinea-Bissau, who is in Cuba heading a delegation that will attend the sixth session of the Cuban-Guinea-Bissau cooperation committee, at the offices of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee.

At the meeting, which was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere, matters of mutual interest and the present international situation, especially in Africa were discussed.

After the talks, the two leaders signed an agreement renewing cooperation between Cuba's Communist Party and the PAIGC. The agreement reiterated the fraternal relations between the two parties, deepened through their fight against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, and apartheid.

MIRET MEETS SOVIET GOSPLAN CHAIRMAN IN MOSCOW

For a report on the meeting in Moscow between Pedro Miret, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and N.K. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet Gosplan, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 14 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

BALAGUER RECEIVES SANTIAGO DE CUBA AWARD

FL141854 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] In a formal ceremony, Jose Ramon Balaguer, party Secretariat member, received the shield of Santiago de Cuba. The symbol of the fighting tradition of that heroic city and a certificate were presented by Julio Camacho Aguilera, Politburo member and party first secretary in that province. The document granting him the award lauds Balaguer's revolutionary work and dedication as a party leader in Santiago de Cuba.

HAVANA MUNICIPALITIES TO OBSERVE DEFENSE DAY

FL141900 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The city of Havana will observe a defense day this coming Sunday. Members of the Territorial Troops Militia and civil defense units will participate in instructional exercises that will be held in the 15 municipalities of the capital. The construction of civil defense centers will continue at centers of employment and schools. This Sunday, the population of the city of Havana will continue to observe the slogan "Production and Defense."

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDAPRC PROVIDES AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AID

FL141514 Bridgetown CANA in English 1426 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Feb 14, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda's education system is getting assistance from the People's Republic of China in the field of agricultural science, project officer in the Ministry of Education, James Knowles, has said. Knowles said China will provide tools to facilitate an expansion of agriculture science subjects in schools throughout the country.

The aid will be channeled through the economic and technical cooperation agreement signed by the two governments shortly after Antigua and Barbuda gained independence in November 1981. China is also providing assistance to Antigua and Barbuda in agriculture and industrial development.

A group of Chinese technicians has arrived here to conduct a study of the agricultural sector.

10-MEMBER MILITARY CONTINGENT SENT TO GRENADA

FL140244 Bridgetown CANA in English 1645 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Feb 13, CANA -- Another contingent of 10 soldiers from Antigua and Barbuda has gone to Grenada to join the United States and Caribbean peace-keeping force there, a spokesman for the Antigua Defence Force (ADF) said. Lieutenant Ickford Smith said the group was replacing a similar number of soldiers in keeping with a three-month rotation scheme in effect until the Grenada police force is fully trained and again capable of maintaining law and order.

U.S. and Caribbean military personnel have been conducting training sessions for the police force in field craft, drills, and patrol, and Grenadians have been receiving training at the regional police training centre in Barbados.

Antigua and Barbuda was among five Eastern Caribbean countries, Jamaica, and the United States which sent soldiers and policemen to Grenada in October 1983 to oust a left-wing military junta that had seized power in a bloody coup.

BAHAMASPINDLING MAY PROROGUE OR DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT

FL141730 Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Feb 85 pp 1, 4

[By Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts] Last evening's sudden suspension of the House of Assembly following two turbulent days of street demonstrations has created speculation that Prime Minister Lynden Pindling, under heavy political pressure will regroup and then possibly prorogue or dissolve Parliament.

The House suspended shortly after 7 pm yesterday until February 20 following a two-day debate on the Commission of Inquiry report. St Agnes MP Kendal Nottage dominated the session and, upon suspension, indicated he was not through with his address. Mr Nottage, who the commission said "whether he knew it or not" fronted for an American crime figure, appeared also to be conducting the defence for Sir Lynden and Rolleville MP George Smith.

PLP [Progressive Liberal Party] Chairman Sean McWeeney said today that, as far as the party is concerned, the timetable for the next general elections -- that is 1987 -- has not changed and the party's efforts are still geared towards that date. He said he would be "very surprised" if the debate does not go on in Parliament as planned.

However, the opposition FNM [Free National Movement] feel that Sir Lynden is in a dilemma and has a very difficult decision to make. "He doesn't want to face us on what will be a devastating attack. His other alternative would be to dissolve Parliament. Pindling is facing a serious, serious problem," FNM spokesman Arthur Foulkes said.

In addition to the expected opposition from the FNM, Sir Lynden is probably uncertain over what to expect from his own side. Every piece of opposition from his own ranks will, at this point, strike a blow to the prime minister's leadership. It is also being widely talked that some of the backbenchers, including the three dissidents, will speak out against corruption.

Those who are still faithful to Sir Lynden -- and there are still quite a few -- are not unaware of the bottled up frustration and, in some cases, anger, that many Bahamians feel after listening to allegations of corruption for a whole year. They are perhaps aware that history will judge them on what they have committed to record. The Bay Street demonstrations this week perhaps reflected the mood of the people. Although both parties can claim equal turn outs in the morning, the PLP demonstrations collapsed by mid-afternoon while a large number of opposition supporters waited outside the House until suspended in the evening.

Sir Lynden was chased to his car by FNM supporters Wednesday evening. On Thursday, he slipped out of the House before it suspended and, instead of braving the crowds in front of Parliament as he usually does, walked onto Parliament Street from the rear of the square. A number of FNM's spotted him and began to follow him. It is understood that the police had to form a human chain to prevent them from doing so. The fact that so many policemen have been posted on Bay Street is also an indication that Sir Lynden recognizes the amount of anger and opposition on the streets.

In light of what has been happening, it is not clear how far cabinet members who are not close to Sir Lynden will go to "stick out their necks" for him.

Mr McWeeney did not see the FNM demonstrations as an indication that the opposition party's support is growing. He felt that the opposition is merely taking a different political tact, one which he feels is reminiscent of 1972. He said the street demonstrations are not party leader Kendal Isaacs' style. He said the demonstrations were predictable, although he was surprised that they "went as far as they did." "Looking at it objectively, our group was very well behaved...they didn't chase Mr Isaacs," said Mr McWeeney.

But, said Mr Foulkes: "The PLP monster is grievously wounded. It looks like the prime minister has decided a strategy to have Nottage make a case for all of them." Mr Foulkes feels it is very possible that Sir Lynden might be left with no choice but to prorogue the House. "The longer it goes, the worse the situation will get. Our people have been wonderful. We don't pay our people. They're there because they want to be there. The longer it goes, the larger the crowds will be. Pindling is in a serious trouble."

Once the House is dissolved, a general election must be called within 40 days. However, it is possible to prorogue the House and then dissolve it before the new session can meet.

POSSIBILITY OF TREATY WITH HAITI ON IMMIGRATION

FL141450 Bridgetown CANA in English 1453 GMT 14 Feb 85

[By Nicki Kelly]

[Text] Nassau, the Bahamas, Feb 14, CANA -- The affluent Bahamas is hoping to conclude a treaty with Haiti within two months to ease problems associated with illegal immigration from the impoverished French-speaking country. Plans for the treaty were announced after a number of tough measures against Haitians who kept turning up here in rickety boats to escape from social and economic conditions.

Bahamian Government officials expect the treaty to be signed before the end of April, when Foreign Minister Clement Maynard is scheduled to visit Port-au-Prince.

The two countries discussed the problems associated with illegal immigration during a recent visit by a 10-member delegation headed by Haitian Foreign Minister Jean-Robert Estime. A joint communique issued then said the two delegations would recommend to their governments measures aimed at eliminating the problems created by the presence of illegal immigrants and mechanisms for repatriation or regularisation of the aliens' status.

How many Haitians are living here illegally is not clear but in 1980 the Bahamas Government had put the number between 20,000 and 40,000. The situation is complicated by the fact that children of Haitian parentage born in the Bahamas after the archipelago's independence from Britain in 1973 are technically stateless. At the same time many others born here under British rule and entitled to Bahamian citizenship were either deported or left voluntarily when their parents were expelled by Bahamian immigration authorities.

Bahamian attorney Eliezer Regnier, the son of Haitian immigrants, maintains that there are thousands of Bahamian-born Haitians now living in Haiti without the means to legalise their Bahamian status. On the other hand, thousands of Bahamian-born Haitians living in the Bahamas cannot apply for citizenship until they are 18, and even then there is no guarantee it will be granted.

Haitians first started coming to the Bahamas in large numbers during the early 1960's and were readily absorbed into the island's booming economy. With the change of government in 1967 the governing Progressive Liberal Party initiated a massive Bahamianization programme intended to reduce the number of immigrants in the country. Large-scale deportations of Haitian nationals did not stop the flow. Bilateral talks proved equally unsuccessful, with political analysts saying this was largely because the Bahamas provided a safety valve for built up pressures in Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

Another reason why a treaty has not been concluded before, is that the Bahamas is a welcome Haitian source of revenue from emigrants.

The deportations took on new urgency in the early 1970's when the Bahamas experienced a severe recession. In 1981 the Haitian Government stopped accepting the refugees back. The situation might have exploded years ago if the immigrants had not decided the U.S. offered a better future than the Bahamas.

With relations between the countries on the mend, Haitian authorities recently began expediting entry permits for Haitians awaiting deportation from the Bahamas. Shortly before Christmas the last 150 remaining in prison were returned home.

Foreign Minister Maynard admits however that the Bahamian Government still faces the knotty question of how to deal with the many thousands of illegal immigrants from Haiti and elsewhere that are already in the islands. We in the Bahamas are hard-pressed to keep up unfavourable balance of payments from enveloping our economy. And the situation becomes exacerbated when foreign workers, legal and illegal, continue to receive payment for work performed in the Bahamas and send much of that money to their families abroad, he said.

The large number of illegal immigrants, coupled with their high birth rate, have also put severe pressure on this small nation's limited education and welfare facilities. Health authorities report that more than half the patients in public clinics are Haitians.

Haitians nonetheless have made an import contribution to the Bahamian economy as farmers and construction workers, performing jobs Bahamians have refused to do.

Regnier has urged the Bahamian Government to waste no time in regularising the status of Bahamian-born Haitians. These young people, who see themselves as Bahamians and expect to be treated as such, are angry he says, because they and their parents are not allowed to earn a decent living and must live in perpetual fear of arrest and deportation. If something is not done there, outcasts will eventually rebel against the system, he warned.

GRENADA

COMMISSION APPOINTED TO REVIEW CONSTITUTION

FL150230 Bridgetown CANA in English 2040 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 14, CANA -- A five-man commission set up by Grenada's new government to review the island's independence constitution was sworn in today by Grenada Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon.

Its chairman Sir Fred Phillips, a former governor-general of St Kitts and Nevis, told reporters after the inaugural meeting that he expected the commission would complete its work in six months.

The other members are secretary Bernard Gibbs, a former senior civil servant, John Renwick, a former judge of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Brymore Pollard, a legal consultant with the Guyana-based Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat, Ralph Carnegie, professor of law at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), and local barrister Michael Andrew, the president of the Grenada Law Society. Grenadian-born Randolph McIntosh, who is a professor at Harvard University in the United States, was also named as an associate member of the commission. He is still to arrive in the country to be sworn in by the governor-general.

Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said on radio last night the commission will examine, study, and enquire into the constitution which Grenada attained on its independence from Britain on Feb 7, 1974. Blaize said that the commissioners report is required to make recommendations for amendments, reforms, and changes to the constitution, and related laws which in the opinion of the members are necessary and desirable for promoting the peace, order, and good government of Grenada.

Among the terms of reference of the commission is the maintaining of democratic institutions in Grenada, and ensuring that parliamentary democracy is given constitutional protection to effectively prevent its destruction.

He listed others as ensuring that prime ministers be limited to no more than 10 consecutive years in office, ensuring a system of free periodic elections for representative government, and ensuring elected parliamentarians are subjected to recall from Parliament for persistent malrepresentation or other sufficient cause in view of their constituents.

Blaize said the commissioners have been mandated to encourage wider participation by Grenadians in the democratic processes of government at both the parliamentary and local government level, and ensuring that residents of Carriacou and Petit Martinique, administered by Grenada, have a special possession in the administration of their own affairs in the state.

In addition, the commission members have been instructed by government to ensure that the judiciary remains independent to safeguard the fundamental and basic human rights, liabilities, liberties, and freedoms of the individual, as well as ensure there is no discrimination in the national life of the state, and to prevent corruption in public life, and safeguarding public funds.

Prime Minister Blaize said the terms of reference are designed to stop up the loopholes which permitted misuse and abuse of the constitution over the last several years since we became independent.

On the issue of the recall of elected members of Parliament, he said this would be a new feature for any constitution in the democratic societies of this part of the world. He stressed that the commissioners will invite nationals to make comments and suggestions in helping to provide Grenada with a constitution that is foolproof and designed to ensure that we all enjoy the privileges that we should have under the grace of God.

Blaize's ruling New National Party (NNP) had campaigned on a platform of constitutional changes in the recent general elections to return Grenada to Westminster parliamentary democracy after four-and-a-half years of leftwing revolution during which the constitution was suspended.

JAMAICA

SEAGA GOES TO U.S. TO PROMOTE TOURISM

FL141306 Bridgetown CANA in English 1757 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 13, CANA -- Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga has left again for the United States to continue a media campaign aimed at reversing the negative effects on the tourist trade of sometimes violent petrol price increase demonstrations here last month. The aim is to restore falling visitor levels to numbers projected earlier for the winter tourist season, a JAMPRESS release said.

During his visit, which began yesterday, the Jamaica leader will focus attention on radio and television interviews in seeking to reassure the international public of the Caribbean island's attractiveness as a destination for tourists and for investment.

Earlier this month, he met with journalists and editors of leading magazines and newspapers in Washington and New York.

Tourism minister, Hugh Hart is also off the island on a promotional campaign in North America and Europe, the agency said.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON COOPERATION WITH BARBADOS

FL142014 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Feb 85 p 1

[Excerpts] Barbados and Guyana have agreed to step up bilateral co-operation following two days of talks in Georgetown between senior officials from the two countries. Areas identified for closer co-operation include the forestry sector and the garment industry.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr Bernard St John led the Barbados team to the talks. The Barbados delegation also included Minister of Agriculture Dr Richard Cheltenham, Minister of Housing Mr L.B. Brathwaite, and Minister of Labour and Social Security Mr Delisle Bradshaw. A number of senior public officers also attended the talks.

Guyana's team was led by deputy prime minister for planning, Mr Haslyn Parris and included Finance Minister Mr Carl Greenidge, and Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture Mr Simpson DaSilva.

According to the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY a joint communique issued yesterday said several areas were identified for "immediate attention" and resource persons from Caricom countries are to develop implementable proposals which will be reviewed in March. However, the thorny issue of Guyana's outstanding debt to Barbados under the suspended Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) has been referred to the central banks of both countries for settlement, the communique stated.

The CMCF, a credit facility set up by Caricom member states to help strengthen intra-Caricom trade, was suspended in 1983 after its U.S. \$100-million credit had been reached, with Guyana owing most of the outstanding sum.

The communique added that "appropriate joint action" would be taken to have Guyana supply Barbados with a range of timber products, including pre-fabricated houses, to meet a "great demand" here.

Another section of the communique released after the Georgetown talks indicated "the meeting also agreed that Guyana has a potential to supply fish, fruit and rice to Barbados, Barbados could supply Guyana with onions and possibly carrots, and the possibility of using labour and excess capital within the local garment industry to boost joint production of garments by the two countries should be investigated."

SUGAR INDUSTRY PROJECTS PRODUCTION INCREASE

FL081924 Bridgetown CANA in English 1840 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 8, CANA -- The key sugar industry is hoping to increase production by about 10 per cent this year, Chairman of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) Harold Davis said here today. The industry has set a target of 266,958 tons, which represents an increase of 25,107 tons over the 1984 production, he said.

For this year, the industry has set 106,513 tons for the first crop, which is now under way, and 160,445 tons for the second crop. These targets are achievable and are well within our capabilities, Davis said.

The corporation has projected a land preparation programme for 21,500 acres, which can be considered a very ambitious programme which can be achieved if the weather holds good and employees can keep their machines operational.

Davis said the most serious problem facing the industry is the problem of how much cane was being taken to produce one ton of sugar. He said there has been a serious deterioration in the cost of production, which had moved from G1,267 dollars (one G dollar: 22 cents U.S.) in 1982, to 1,374 dollars in 1983 and 1,679 dollars in 1984.

ARGENTINAEX-JUNTA MEMBERS TO BE MOVED TO ANOTHER PRISON

PY142120 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1109 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (DYN) -- In keeping with an order issued by the criminal and correctional appellate court, the former military leaders who have been prosecuted in cases involving violations of human rights and who are currently in the Magdalena penitentiary will be transferred to prison unit U-22 in downtown Buenos Aires. The ruling came about following the approval of a petition for further questioning of the former chairmen of the first three juntas of the previous military regime filed by the attorney general's office.

ECUADORALLEGED 'ALFARO LIVES' MEMBER RELEASED ON BAIL

PA141302 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Rosa Mireya Cardenas, alleged member of the Alfaro Lives political group, has been released on 10,000 sucres bail set by the Third Penal Court. The alleged activist had been in jail since August, when she was arrested by security agents in Costa Rica and subsequently deported to Ecuador. Cardenas' lawyer said that the measure taken by the court was the best because the trial had no legal basis.

PARAGUAYSUPREME COURT ORDERS RELEASE OF MOPOCO'S RIERA

PY131525 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 13 Feb 85 p 7

[Text] A court order has lifted the confinement of Enrique Riera, militant of the Colorado Popular Movement [Mopoco], who was arrested by the police along with other members of this organization. Riera told this newspaper that lawyer Julio Cesar Vasconcellos submitted a request for an injunction to the Supreme Court and that "the Supreme Court requested information from the Interior Ministry which in turn answered immediately saying that there was no warrant for my arrest. Therefore, the Supreme Court quickly ordered my release."

SURINAMEBOUTERSE VISIT TO COLOMBIA SET FOR 22-23 FEB

WA141800 The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 30 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Paramaribo-The Hague, January 30 -- Suriname's military leader Desi Bouterse is to make an official visit to Colombia on February 22 and 23, at the invitation of Colombian President Belisario Betancur, the government of the former Dutch colony announced today. The invitation followed a visit made by a Surinamese delegation to Bogota, the announcement said. Surinamese Prime Minister Wim Udenhout said earlier this week that his country was anxious to increase trade relations with Colombia. The two countries have maintained diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level since 1981.